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20 September 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Senator Fulbright's 18 September 1972 Letter

1. I have just received (from Mr. Maury) a copy of Senator Fulbright's 18 September 1972 letter to you asking for "the Central Intelligence Agency report, on which Mr. Szulc's (13 September) article was based."

2. As you may be aware, a similar (probably identical) letter has been sent to the Secretary of Defense. Shortly after lunch today (20 September), and before I was aware that Senator Fulbright had written you, [redacted] of DIA called me to solicit help in preparing a DIA memorandum for Secretary Laird to assist the Secretary in answering a letter from Senator Fulbright. According to [redacted] Fulbright had asked Laird to identify and furnish copies of the DIA and CIA reports mentioned in Szulc's 13 September New York Times article. [redacted] has probably not seen the actual letter, hence his account of it may not be completely accurate.)

3. [redacted] said a thorough search of DIA's records and files had failed to turn up any DIA report or study similar to that described by Szulc. He then asked if there was any such CIA report. If so, could he please have the title, date and (if at all possible) a copy. In levying this request, [redacted] grumbled a bit saying that the Agency never seemed to send DIA our Indochina studies any more, hence DIA did not know what we were saying or producing. I ignored that crack and not wishing to sprinkle any gasoline on that ember, simply told [redacted] (fudging slightly) that we too had searched our files and had no candidate for the Szulc leak. I also told him (truthfully) that the Szulc article had no verbal echoes of any prose we had ever produced and, further, we had never thought or written in terms of a two-year time frame, hence any paper pitched to that period could not possibly have come from us.

Mac Chono
VAS Chono
Congressional Liaison

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25X1 4. [] thanked me, adding that DIA was equally mystified by the
25X1 two-year reference, since that was a time frame they had never used either.
[] then said he would recommend that the Secretary tell Senator Fulbright
he (Laird) had checked both DIA's and CIA's records, could locate no such
document and, hence, was unable to comply with the Senator's request. Here
I blew a sharp whistle, saying that for form's sake and to keep wires from
getting inadvertently crossed it would be much better if Defense handled any
senatorial (or other) queries only with reference to its own material, without 25X1
commenting on the Agency. Should we receive a similar letter from this, or
any other, Senator, we -- in turn -- would not comment on Defense. []
said he agreed, would amend his recommendation accordingly and again
thanked me for my help.

[] 25X1
George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

cc: Mr. Colby
Mr. Maury

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